

MEMO: **Accessibility Advisory and Guidance**

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Most newly constructed or renovated recreational features, facilities, and specific elements are required to be accessible. IAC grant recipients have an obligation to provide an accessible facility, site, and access to its programs and services offered. Depending on the nature of the activity, location, experience, primary purpose or design, intended users, and technical feasibility, exceptions may be allowed. Certain physical architectural features and structures that cannot be made accessible may be exempt. That is, a feature that has little chance of being built is technically infeasible to do so, or the cost is disproportional to the total cost of the project. Projects not requiring a building permit or having a specific scoping or technical provision for specific elements are not automatically exempt from ADA access requirements.

Sponsors must consider all of the following references when making decisions about new construction and redevelopment of sites and facilities:

1. On July 1st 2004, the 2003 International Building Code (IBC) as amended, became the new state building code (see WAC 51-50). Included, as part of the code is 2003 Uniform Plumbing (UPC), 2003 International Residential Code (IRC), and the 1998 American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A117.1, as referenced in IBC chapter 11. **NOTE:** July 1 2005, the 1998 ANSI will be replaced by the 2003 ANSI A117.1 version.
2. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as revised July 1 1994 28 CFR Part 36.
3. Final Rule guidelines published July 26, 2004 by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board). The board's ADA and ABA guidelines will serve as the baseline for standards used to enforce the ADA and ABA. Go to www.access-board.gov.
4. When no "Model" code or standard exists, Access Board proposed rules, final rules, final reports, ADA guidelines, and technical bulletins should be consulted for the most current, useful, and best practices for providing accessibility. When a conflict arises among any references, standards, guidelines, or model codes, the one providing the most access applies.

Baseball or soccer/play fields:

- Need a firm and stable outdoor access route of 44" wide minimum (60" preferred, less than 60" needs passing space or turnaround, or "T" intersections) to all elements and spaces from park amenities and/or parking
- Need a firm and stable outdoor access route level and flush at the edge of the playing surface, access to any bleachers or viewing benches provided, and access to coaching or trophy /awards presentations areas
- Need access to and through gates or entryways into dugouts and onto fields, 36" clear minimum width (48" preferred), with compliant hardware and latches
- For fixed soccer fields with no designated or fixed seating, an accessible route from the closest parking and any other element, amenity, or improvements to the most desirable, logical, and closest viewing area used by most spectators
- For portable fields that are moved or rotated regularly to protect turf, pick the most desirable, logical viewing point(s) and provide an accessible route of travel to them from closest accessible parking or amenities, while also considering the amount of non-accessible terrain travel or non-accessible surfacing serving the area. For large complexes alternative transportation may be appropriate.

See Access Board's June 2003 "Accessible Sports Facilities", a summary of accessibility guidelines, ADAAG 4.3, 4.3.4, 4.5, 4.13.3, ADA-ABA 302,404,802,903, and IBC 1101.2.1, 1109.14.3, ANSI 403.5

Beaches:

- Accessible beach routes of 44" minimum (60" preferred, less than 60" needs passing space or turnaround, or "T" intersections) to basic elements and spaces such as picnic tables or umbrella/ shaded viewing/resting areas and into the water for swimming, if provided
- Temporary accessible beach routes are allowed where permanent ones are not
- The accessible beach route shall coincide with the general pedestrian beach whenever possible and the surface shall be firm and stable
- Beach replenishment or nourishment doesn't trigger accessibility requirements

See Access Board Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report September 1999 16.4, ADAAG 4.3, ADA-ABA 302-305, and IBC 1101.2.1, 1109.14.3

Benches/bleachers:

- At least 50% of all benches (when provided) meet accessibility requirements
- Benches shall have a full-length backrest and an armrest on at least one end
- Seating height of 17"-19" above surface
- Provide resting benches along long routes of travel on the way to elements or accessible facilities
- Benches need at least one hard level clear space along at least one end of 30" width by 48" deep minimum size; 36" minimum width and 60" depth is preferred
- All bleachers should have at least one hard level clear space 30" wide by 48" deep minimum to accommodate wheelchairs in the middle or at least one or both ends and shall offer comparable sight lines and prices, spaces at both ends and or middle are preferred giving user more choices for viewing and integration

See Access Board's June 2003 "Accessible Sports Facilities", a summary of accessibility guidelines, Access Boards' Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report September 1999 16.12, ADA-ABA 802,903 and IBC 1108

Boating facilities, floats/gangways:

- At least one accessible route must connect facilities boating, piers and launch ramps at a site, but not less than 5%, all facilities connected by accessible routes is preferred
- At least one gangway must meet the maximum slope requirement for length, longer gangways preferred to provide greater accessibility at times when variable water conditions exist or are subject to tidal influences
- At least one boat slip (when slips provided) is required to be accessible with 60" clear space and turn around, wider floats preferred for stability and turning radius

See Access Board's June 2003 "Accessible Boating Facilities", a summary of accessibility guidelines, ADAAG 4.3, ADA-ABA 1003-1005 and IBC 1109.14.3

Camping:

-When provided, a minimum number of camping spaces shall comply with table 16.17 (more accessible spaces are preferred for choices of locations and fees)

-When provided, RV and trailer space elements such as but not limited to: fire rings, cooking grills, tables, utility posts, and surfacing shall be accessible (Accessible features such as grills, tables, and fire rings in the non-accessible RV spots are also preferred)

See Access Boards' Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report September 1999 16.17 ADA-ABA 302,402,IBC 1109.14.3

Fishing docks:

-At least one accessible route must connect fishing facilities, piers, and platforms

-When gangway are used at least one must meet the maximum slope requirement for length, longer gangways preferred to provide accessibility at more times to variable water level conditions

-At least 25% of railings *if provided*, are required to be less than 34" above deck, higher and lower rails preferred to give seated or standing anglers a place to lean on or reach over while fishing. A clear opening of 4 to 8" wide in rails for larger fish (salmon/steelhead) retrieval recommended

See Access Board's June 2003 "Accessible Fishing Piers and Platforms", a summary of accessibility guidelines, ADAAG 4.3, ADA-ABA 302,1005 IBC 1109.14.3

Grills and pedestal grills:

- Where two or more provided, 50% to be accessible, but never less than two

-Of those 50% required to be accessible, 40% of them (the 50%) required to be served by outdoor accessible route

-Required firm and stable clear space of 48" on all useable sides, and minimum height of 15" from ground to a 34" maximum height to cooking surface

See Access Board Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report September 1999 16.7, ADAAG 4.3, 4.27.1 – 4.27.3, and ADA-ABA 302,304,306,308, 402 ANSI 309.4

Overlooks and Viewing areas:

-Overlooks and viewing areas shall be connected by an accessible route and offer unrestricted viewing of the feature or opportunity

*See Access Boards' Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report September 1999
16.10 ADA-ABA 302-305,802,*

Playgrounds:

-Accessible surfacing (meeting ASTM F-1951-99 standard www.astm.org) is required to all accessible ground level components and parts of the play structure as defined in the Access Board Final Rule (effective November 2000)

-Accessible surfacing to the whole play structure and accompanying areas is preferred, including entry points from surrounding area to the play equipment area as it is necessary for social and physical relationships and integration

-Accessible equipment and number of elevated components determines need for transfer platform or ramp, but access to all equipment including using ramps instead of transfer platforms for elevated features may be preferred

*Access Board Final Rule November 2000 36 CFR Part 1191 [docket #98-2]
ADA-ABA 302,1008*

Parking spaces /boat or horse trailer combos:

-The first one in six spaces required, must be van accessible, signed, and be served by a minimum 8 foot wide access aisle or all spaces can be universally accessible of 11 feet wide with an 5 foot access aisle, wider access aisles or vehicle spaces are preferred for larger vans and trucks with less turning abilities in close parking

-For designated trailer spaces use the same parking ratios formula with a painted access aisle the full length. Where a pull through trailer spot CANNOT accommodate an upright sign in any location, painted ground logo's of the international symbol of access (white and blue wheelchair logo) may be used. In boat trailer parking where boats are readied for launching and retrieval, wider access aisles on both sides of the designated space are preferred

ADAAG 4.1.2, 4.6, ADA-ABA 502, ANSI 502, IBC 1106

Picnic tables and picnic shelters:

-Where two or more fixed tables are provided, at least 50% but not less than two shall be accessible and at least 40% of them are to be served by an accessible outdoor recreation route, and be dispersed among areas

-All picnic tables of an accessible design preferred as it would still be useable, whether or not it was served by an accessible route

-An accessible table shall have at least one accessible seating space or more based on square footage of tabletop perimeter, multiple seating options on ends or bench cuts outs preferred for integration and reach range of persons

-Shelters must be served by an accessible route and if provided, all fixtures, amenities, and elements shall meet accessible guidelines

See Access Board Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report September 1999 16.5 ADAAG 4.3, 4.27, 4.32, 5.1 ADA-ABA 302, 305, 306, 902,

Registrations booths or self pay iron rangers:

-Registration booths and iron rangers should have the required clear space, meet height and reach range requirements, and be serve by an accessible route

-Devices should allow for self-pay and not require tight gripping, pinching, grasping, or finger manipulation to operate or insert money

See ADAAG 4.27, 4.34.3 ADA-ABA 302, 305, 308, 309, and IBC ANSI 309

Sports courts:

- Access routes of travel to points of entry and similar points of interest within boundary of courts, including access to all elements and features of courts including viewing, playing areas, teaching/coaching, locker rooms, and trophy presentations area

See Access Board's June 2003 Accessible "Sports facilities", a summary of accessibility guidelines, ADAAG 4.3, ADA-ABA 302-305 402-404, and IBC ANSI 302, 401

Telescopes/viewing scopes:

- When provided, 20 percent but never less than one shall be accessible
- Surface conditions shall meet accessible requirements including route of travel

*See Access Board Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report September 1999
16.11, ADAAG 4.3, 4.27, ADA-ABA 302-306,308,309 and IBC ANSI 309*

Trails:

- Trails have been the most discussed and negotiated recreational element with the least consensus as to how trails meet accessibility guidelines and when they are required to be accessible
- ADA accessibility for all newly constructed and renovated *pedestrian* trails must be considered to determine whether there is an exception or conditional departure, which exempts the trail or design from ADA considerations

*See Access Board Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report September 1999,
ADAAG 4.3, IBC ANSI 1109.14.3*

Gun Ranges:

At least 5% but never less than one fixed shooting position should be connected by an accessible route and level 60-inch clear space for turning. Different fixed shooting positions or types at one site, should all be served by the same accessible route when possible. When this is not possible, accessible parking at each different shooting opportunity or shooting line is allowed. Access to targets and pits is on a case-by-case basis. If provided, tables or bench rests shall also accommodate wheelchairs or mobility devices at the accessible location.

See Access Board's June 2003 Accessible "Sports facilities", a summary of accessibility guidelines, ADAAG 4.3, ADA-ABA 302-306, 402-404, and IBC ANSI 302, 401

Public agencies as defined in Title II of the ADA have an obligation to provide access to programs, services, and activities which may require going beyond the minimum architectural standards of any building code or guideline. For further information contact: roryc@iac.wa.gov or call 360- 902-3022.

Please Note:

This is NOT a complete list, nor is it an intended to be an exclusive list of applicable provisions. This is only provided as a service from the IAC. It remains the responsibility of the IAC grant recipient or agency, architectural or engineering/consulting firm and contractors to know and follow all applicable federal, state, or local codes, standards, regulations, guidelines, or provisions that maximize ADA access when constructing or renovating a site or facility.

February 4 2005